

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

SUSANNE COHEN	:	CIVIL ACTION
	:	
v.	:	NO. 15-479
	:	
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES INSURANCE	:	
COMPANY	:	

AMENDED SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE ORDER

Pursuant to the direction of the Honorable Anita B. Brody, a settlement conference will be held in Chambers before the Honorable David R. Strawbridge in Room 3030, 3rd Floor, United States Courthouse, 601 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106 on **Tuesday, August 4, 2015** commencing at **9:30 a.m.***

Any individual plaintiff or other person bringing a claim (counterclaim or third-party claim) is **required to appear in person**. All other entities must appear through a duly-authorized representative knowledgeable about the facts of the case and with full settlement authority. The Court will grant an exception to this requirement **only** upon a **written** showing of good cause and exceptional circumstances.

The Court fully expects that the parties have a serious interest in pursuing settlement. Prior to the conference, but not later than **July 23, 2015**, counsel for plaintiffs is to set out to defendants a written good faith demand. The defendant is to respond to the demand in good faith on or before **July 27, 2015** and is then to initiate a discussion with opposing counsel regarding the parties' settlement positions. To the extent that any demands and/or offers have already been made, they are to be updated (even if the update is merely a confirmation of previous demands/offers) based upon the current status of the case and a serious re-evaluation of all issues potentially affecting settlement. The Court expects the parties to be fully prepared to discuss all issues relevant to the settlement process.

The parties are directed to submit to the Court on or before **July 30, 2015**, a settlement memorandum of no more than six (6) typed double-spaced pages. **Settlement conference memoranda are to be exchanged and submitted to chambers, but are not to be filed with the Clerk of Court.** If counsel feel further communication with the Court is necessary on an ex parte basis, they may provide the Court with a brief submission. If they do so, they are to advise all other counsel of the fact that they have done so. **Defense counsel may, if appropriate, submit an agreed upon single memorandum.** The memorandum shall set out in the following in order:

1. The names, telephone numbers, facsimile numbers and e-mail addresses of counsel to appear at the conference on behalf of the party;
2. The name of the party or the party's representative, including insurer if applicable (with title or position) to appear at the conference;
3. The status of any pending motions;
4. The status of discovery;
5. A brief statement of the factual and legal basis of the party's claims and/or defenses, including the elements and manner of proof;
6. A brief statement of the factual and legal basis of the party's damages, including the elements and manner of proof of their damages or, as appropriate, its position on damages claimed by any opposing party;
7. The last demand and/or offer; and
8. Any other matters that counsel believe may be relevant to settlement discussions.

The Court finds that diagrams, photos, schematics and particularly relevant documents are often helpful and their submission is encouraged. If any such items are in color, the color copies are to be brought to the conference. If any documents are over five (5) pages in length, counsel shall highlight or otherwise draw particular attention to the critically relevant portion of the document. Any submission which, including exhibits is over 20 pages, shall **not** to be submitted via facsimile or e-mail and should be sent via overnight mail or hand-delivery. Exhibits to any memorandum must be indexed and tabbed for ease of review. Counsel are required to review Judge Strawbridge's Standard Policy and Procedures pertaining to settlement on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania's website (<http://www.paed.uscourts.gov>).

BY THE COURT:

Date: May 13, 2015

/s/ David R. Strawbridge
David R. Strawbridge
United States Magistrate Judge
267-299-7790(ph)/267-299-5065(fax)

*Originally scheduled date of 6/1/15 by joint request of counsel due to scheduling deadline changes.